

Gentlemen,

As active member of broadcast journalism for 20 years I deplore Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. As mentioned before is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

If you allow this, why not allow Moore's "Farh. 9/11" as counter programming?

We both know why, both pieces are not true journalism rather inflammatory sensationalism.

Sinclair Broadcasting uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. However, that is not the case. When large companies control the airwaves, what's good for the bottom line becomes the concern and the People's good is ignored. The argument that Bush is "good for business" has blinded corporations to the fact that what's good for business is not good for democracy. It's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard and rules and regulations must be restored to their 1970 pre Reagan levels.

Thank you for your time..
Stephen Phenow